

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 and 76-144 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 1, 26 and 50 are amended. No new matter is added.

By the previous Office Action, claims 4, 13-14, 26-49, 76-110 and 122-144 are withdrawn from consideration; and claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-25, 50-51, and 111-121 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103.

I. Restriction/Election Requirement

Claims 4, 13-14, 26-49, 76-110 and 122-144 are withdrawn from consideration as subject to Restriction and Election Requirements.

For all of the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration filed on June 29, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper, and must be withdrawn. Furthermore, with respect to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants understand that upon search, examination and allowance of the elected species, search and examination will continue as to the non-elected species within the scope of the generic claims.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the previous Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-25, 50-51, and 111-121 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Leung (WO 96/40797) in view of Engelson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For all of the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration filed on June 29, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

The above amendments to claims 1, 26 and 50 clarify that the adhesive composition is a polymerizable adhesive composition. These amendments do not affect Applicants' previous arguments for patentability of the claims over the cited references. Because the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, the claims would not have been obvious over the cited references.

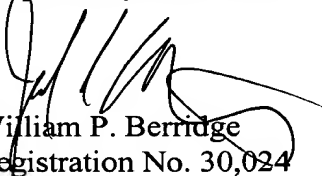
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

WPB:JSA

Date: August 16, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--